

March 28, 1973

Dr. Myron Tribus
Xerox Corporation
Xerox Square
Rochester, New York 14603

Dear Myron,

A contribution for saving the forests and unclogging the mail.

I am sure 50% of Xerox copier business is directed to "copying" blankspace - between type lines, especially in documents like pre-prints etc.

(Now that I have said it, you can probably finish the letter).

It is not hard to think of a fairly simple ^{opto-}mechanical system that would pick up a line at a time so as to compress double into single space copy. Even a non-feedback controlled ratchet would do most of the jobs. Alternatively, you could provide a series of differently space-coded transparent templates which would give spacing information back to the copier.

Conversely, editors could accept compact, available single space copy and stretch it to facilitate proof work etc.

All this is trivial, of course, for machinable inputs, or for video-scanned telemetry. But I think the strip step I propose would be cheaper. Of course, all this goes hand in hand with format reduction - miniprint, etc.

I am surprised Xerox is not deeper into the microform business, or am I missing something?

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr

Encl.: An idealized economic model for basic science.